


 splash!

quick facts on...

Land Acquisition for Everglades Restoration

DECEMBER 2007

Key Message:

The State of Florida, the Florida Legislature and the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District have committed over **\$1 Billion** toward land acquisition to protect and restore the Everglades. Even with this unprecedented effort, additional assistance is needed to secure all the lands needed for restoration.

The South Florida Water Management District is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts.

Our Mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems, and water supply.

Achievements to Date

- Due to rapidly rising property values in South Florida, early acquisition has saved hundreds of millions of dollars and ensured property is available for project use.
- As of September 30, 2007, **56 percent or 217,584 acres** of estimated lands needed to implement the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) have been acquired. Still needed: 170,582 acres.
- Aggressive land acquisition has averaged 11,800 acres per year for the last two years.
- Over the last seven years, the **State of Florida has spent approximately \$1.4 billion.**
- Land acquisition is currently ahead of schedule as compared to the March 2005 Master Implementation Sequencing Plan (MISP) land acquisition strategy.
- Kissimmee River Restoration: Land acquisition is complete! A total of 102,064 acres was needed and acquired, with less than 1% condemnation.

Land Acquisition Funding Sources

- Save Our Everglades Trust Fund: \$866,600,000 total funds (\$126,600,000 for FY 2008)
- Florida Forever Funds: \$244,000,000 total funds (\$36,750,000 for FY 2008)

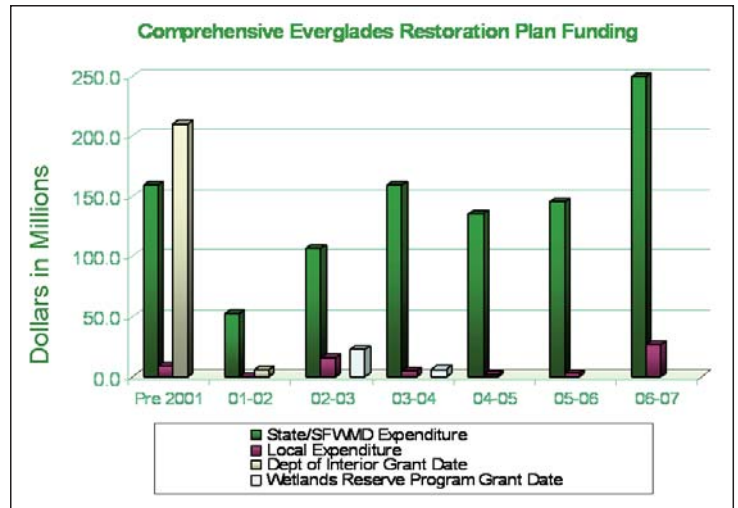
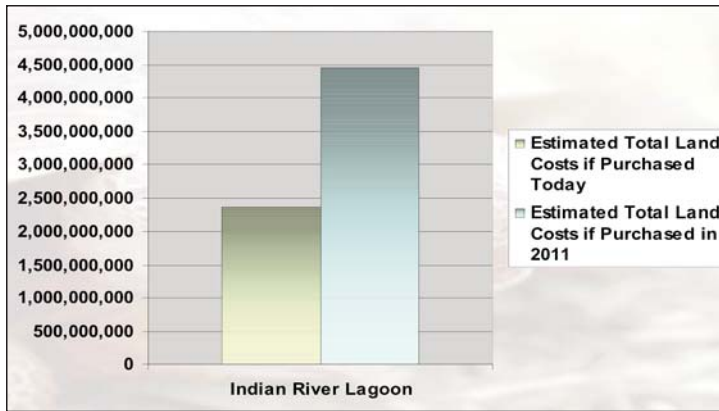
- U.S. Department of Interior Grants: \$353,000,000 (CERP) total; no grant monies received since 2001 (\$4,000,000 request pending)
- U.S. Department of Agriculture Grants: Wetlands Reserve Program: \$29,000,000 total
- Local Partnerships (Miami-Dade, Martin, St. Lucie, Palm Beach and Broward counties): \$78,000,000
- State Mitigation Funds: \$5,000,000

Current Challenges

- Stretching limited funds with federal/state/county partnerships.
- Exploring creative solutions for land acquisition, such as multiple funding sources, multi-year payout options and lease agreements.

Current Land Acquisition Priorities

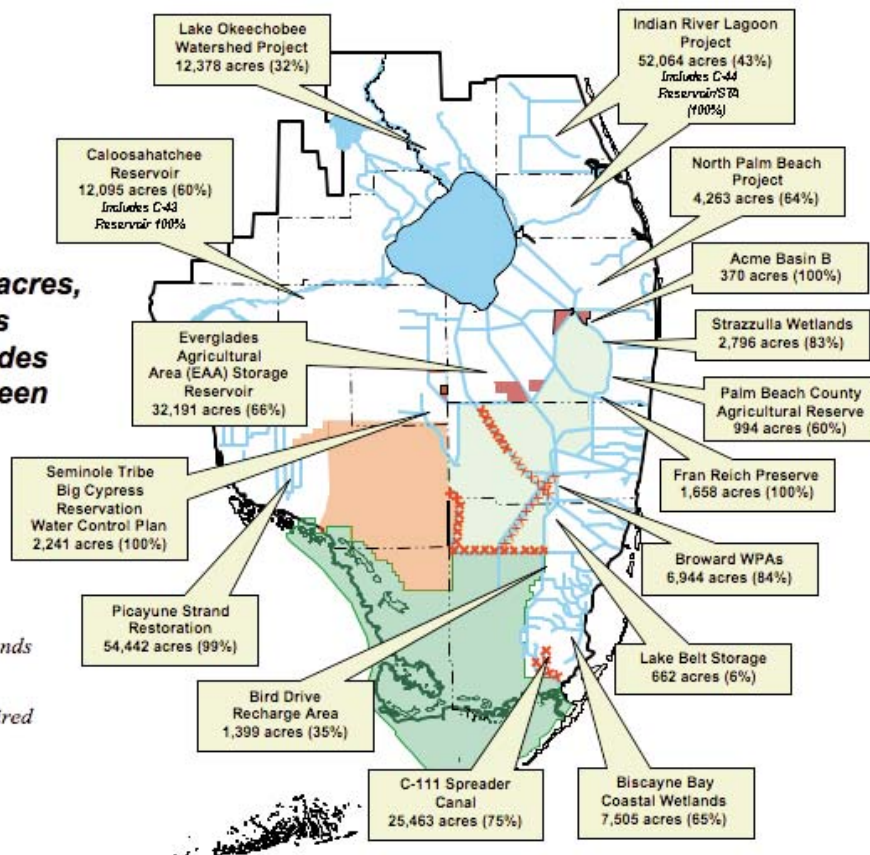
- Remaining lands needed for construction of the fast-tracked *Acceler8* Everglades restoration projects (700 acres)
- Capital improvement lands identified within the next 5 year implementation schedule for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan and the Northern Everglades
- Herbert Hoover Dike rehabilitation



State and Federal funding has allowed early land acquisition

More than 217,000 acres, or 56%, of the lands needed for Everglades Restoration have been acquired as of Sept 30, 2007

- Numbers in parenthesis indicate percentage of lands acquired per project
- Map represents all acquired lands to-date from all sources/partners



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